

From: user5
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 5:13pm
Subject: Anti-Trust Settlement

I am a strong proponent of a free-market society, however I also understand that certain entities have in the past, do at present and will in the future take advantage of the laws in existence as well as jumps in technology to advance the interests of the entities to the detriment of the American People.

President Theodore Roosevelt understood this and observed the ravages of unrestricted mining and de-forestation of our lands. He also understood how the collusion between the Railroad, Steel and Coal barons exacerbated the problems. Both he and the United States Courts acted accordingly.

The purpose of Anti-Trust legislation is to protect the national interests as relates to Public Safety, National Security and the rights of the people to pursue their own wealth and happiness.

National Security does not simply relate to Department of Defense issues. When our economy suffers, so does the ability of the nation to raise itself up to provide for a defense. If we are weakened fiscally, we are weakened defensively.

Microsoft Corporation has used it's influence with manufacturers to make it's own desktop program virtually the sole desktop on personal and business computers around the world. It is my belief that they also incorporate data into the desktop program to cause competitors data management systems to crash.

I have had, in personal, corporate and government service, the absolute pleasure of working with systems that are not of Microsoft origin. When not linked into Microsoft programs, they seem to run flawlessly. I have also had the misfortune of being forced in my government employment of having to use Microsoft applications which crash, lose data or are so extraordinarily complex as to have to have expensive training to learn to accomplish tasks that were relatively simple to initiate with old programs like D-Base III, Corel Word-Perfect and Lotus Approach (The relative Microsoft Applications being Access, Word and Access). To give you an example, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania uses the Lotus programs Approach and Dominoe to track Pennsylvania Drivers' records. In all other State Agencies we are required to use Microsoft Office applications. From personal experience in the Department of Corrections, computer users need continuing re-education in Microsoft products just to keep abreast of the changes (changes I may add only in the way one must use the product, not improvements in efficiency or additional uses).

There are several problems associated with having so much of the nations'

business conducted through a sole source as well. With the millions of lines of code embedded in the programs being utilized by virtually every office and home in America, either the management or individual programmers could implant a time bomb of sorts to wipe out the entire nations computing capability at a given time or to mine information detrimental to individuals, corporations or the nation from computers around the country.

I want to keep this short and readable, so I will close this letter with my feelings on the proposed settlement; I do NOT support it. There is plenty of precedent which the Department of Justice and the Courts should be able to rely upon and the appropriate arguments made to justify eliminating the restraint abilities that Microsoft has made against it's competitors ability to bring their products to market. Even if the elimination were to be for a limited time and of sufficient strength to allow competitors to get their products onto the same machines with Microsoft Products so that the consumer could decide, I would be much more pleased.

There is no denying that Microsoft is a monopolistic entity and uses the advantage it has gained to restrict the competition. No intelligent individual could determine otherwise.

There is also no denying the potential hazards such a monopoly poses to the security of our nation and to the privacy rights of citizens and the nation.

Thank you

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